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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Picraux DATE TYPED 1/27/05 HB 180

SHORT TITLE Immunization Info For Pharmacists SB _____

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Regulation and Licensing Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 180 amends Section 24-5-8 NMSA 1978 by specifically adding the term “pharmacists” to the category of healthcare providers able to access the immunization registry both to receive and report patient immunization information.

Significant Issues

The Department of Health reports that pharmacists are legally able to prescribe and administer immunizations via Title 16 Occupational and Professional Licensing.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Health reports that immunizations are a priority for the Governor and the Department of Health as reflected in the Department of Health Strategic Health Plan, Strategic Direction: Improve the Health of New Mexicans, Objective 1. Immunize Children.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Regulation and Licensing Department claims that similar reporting requirements already exist in the Board of Pharmacy Regulations which allow for the notification to a designated primary care provider or the Department of Health of any vaccine administered.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The current language in the Immunization Act "...and other health care providers..." includes pharmacists but creating a unique category reinforces the pharmacist as a member of the registry community.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Health reports that the rates of childhood immunization in New Mexico are extremely low, partly due to poor documentation of immunization information. The immunization registry will improve rates because it is an on-line and up-to-date source of immunization information for New Mexico medical care providers, school nurses, public health personnel and under HB 180, if passed, pharmacists.

ALTERNATIVES

None indicated.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

Pharmacists would still be considered in the category of "health care providers" under the Immunization Act. However, the DOH reports some confusion in the pharmacy community that they could not report or access the Immunization Registry.

AHO/sb